Security personnel killed at Akshardham Temple

2852. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Security Personnel were killed by militants at Akshardham Temple, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat during the last year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the names of the deceased;

(c) the details of the compensation given to the next of the kin of each deceased; and

(d) whether any award has been given to the any one of them and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) 3 security personnel namely Subedar Suresh Chand Yadav, JCO, NSG, Shri Arjun Singh L. Gameti and Shri Allaharakha Hazibhai, from the State Reserve Police were killed by the militants at Akshardham Temple.

(c) The State Government has paid compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs each to the three security personnel killed.

(d) Subedar Suresh Chand Yadav has been conferred the nation's highest civilian award "Ashok Chakra" (posthumously) on 26th Jan. 2003.

Progress made in resolving Kashmir issues

†2853. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress report made so far by the former Home Secretary appointed as Central interlocutor for the peace talks in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the results achieved so far following the exchange of talks between the Central interlocutor and the elected representatives and other outfits; and

(c) the details of the talks held so far?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) Shri N.N. Vohra former Union Home Secretary and former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister who has been apointed as the Government of India's representative to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organisations and concerned individuals in the State of J&K made a two day visit to J&K on 5th and 6th March, 2003. He had preliminary meetings with Constitutional figures in the State *i.e.* Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Chairman, legislative Council, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council.

Tunnel at Indo-Pak Border

†2854. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under the caption, "Bharat-Pak seema per 30 meter lambi surang"; and

(b) if so, details of facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 11 January, 2003, the Border Security Force troops of border outpost Kassoke of Ferozepur sector of Punjab detected an unfinished tunnel in an area which had a thick growth of 'Sarkanda" (elephant grass). The length of the dug tunnel was approximately 15 meters, diameter about two and a half feet and its opening at a depth of approximately 2 to 3 feet below the surface. The tunnel has since been filled up with earth.

Management of international coastal borders

2855. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangements exist whereby part of the expenses for the management of international coastal boarders are borne by the Central Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.